PATENT

<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u>

Please amend or cancel claims as indicated in the Listing of Claims that will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1.(currently amended): An apparatus for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:

an encoder ~~for~~ <u>configured to</u> digitally ~~encoding~~ <u>encode a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information</u>a handwritten signature; ~~and~~

<u>a placement selector configured to select a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;</u>

<u>an access selector configured to select a level of access for the encoded information;</u>

<u>a processor configured to process, responsive to said access selector, the encoded information; and</u>

<u>a printer configured to print the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.</u>

~~a printer for creating a tamper-proof document comprising the digitally encoded signature.~~

2.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tamper-proof document is a ~~third-party~~<u>third-party</u> check.

3-4(canceled)

5.(currently amended): A method for creating a tamper-proof document, comprising:

<u>digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;</u>

PATENT

     selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

     selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

     processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information; and

     printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as an area of glyph marks at the location.

     ~~digitally encoding a handwritten signature; and~~

     ~~printing the tamper-proof document comprising the digitally-encoded signature.~~

6.(currently amended)   The method of claim 5, wherein the tamper-proof document is a ~~third party~~third-party check.

7.(canceled)

8.(currently amended):   The method of claim ~~7~~5, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

9.(currently amended):   A method for ensuring that a document has not been altered, comprising:

     digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded information;

     selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded information;

     selecting a level of access for the encoded information;

     processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded information;

PATENT

     <u>printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as</u> <u>an area of glyph marks at the location.</u>

~~digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document;~~

~~printing the document comprising the encoded information;~~

decoding the encoded information <u>as decoded information;</u> ~~and~~

comparing the decoded information with the user-inputted portion; and

identifying the document as altered, if the decoded information is not identical to the user-inputted portion.

10.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

11.(original): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoded information is a graphical recreation of the user-inputted portion.

12.(currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein the decoding step further comprises placing the document under a viewport <u>of a lens apparatus,</u> wherein the ~~viewport~~ <u>lens apparatus</u> converts the encoded information to decoded information.

13.(original): The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of superimposing the decoded information on the document.

14.(original): The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of displaying the decoded information outside of the document.

15-16.(canceled)

17.(currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing instructions for controlling a data processing system to perform a method for creating a tamper-proof document, the method comprising:

     <u>digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document as encoded</u> <u>information;</u>

PATENT

<u>selecting a location on the tamper-proof document to place the encoded</u> <u>information;</u>

<u>selecting a level of access for the encoded information;</u>

<u>processing, responsive to selecting the level of access, the encoded</u> <u>information; and</u>

<u>printing the tamper-proof document including the encoded information as</u> <u>an area of glyph marks at the location.</u>

~~digitally encoding a user-inputted portion of the document; and~~

~~printing the tamper-proof document comprising the encoded information.~~

18.(original): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the user-inputted portion is handwritten.

19-29(canceled)

30.(new): The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the tamper-proof document is a third-party check.